

**From:** Johnson, Virginia  
**To:** [Casey Hammond](#); [Aurelia Skipwith](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Interior 30 Day Look Ahead  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 06, 2017 5:11:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 6-6-17.docx](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott Hommel** <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Jun 6, 2017 at 5:59 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Interior 30 Day Look Ahead  
To: Douglas Domenech <[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>, David Mihalic <[david\\_mihalic@ios.doi.gov](mailto:david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov)>, Cason James <[james\\_cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_cason@ios.doi.gov)>, Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, [kate\\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov](#), Virginia Johnson <[virginia\\_johnson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:virginia_johnson@ios.doi.gov)>, [laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](#), Daniel Jorjani <[daniel\\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov](mailto:daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov)>, Micah Chambers <[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)>, [Vincent\\_DeVito@ios.doi.gov](#), Lori Mashburn <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>, Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>, Timothy Williams <[timothy\\_williams@ios.doi.gov](mailto:timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov)>

Here is report sent today. Please send to anyone that I may have left off.

Scott  
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Virginia H. Johnson  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Telephone: (202) 208-4943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
June 6, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior  
SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of June 5, 2017

**DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead**

**Presidential Initiatives and Awareness**

1. **SAGE GROUSE:** On Wednesday, June 6, the Secretary will announce in a Secretarial Order a multi-faceted strategy on sage grouse that includes partnership with the eleven affected western states, a review of 2015 land use plans to identify provisions that require modification or recession, and an analysis of the efficacy of target populations on a state-by-state basis. The Secretary will announce the SO during a call with Western Governors followed by a media and stakeholder call.  
**Timing:** June 7  
**Contact:** Kathy Benedetto, Bureau of Land Management
2. **BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT:** Executive Order 13792 entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act” requires an interim report to the President on recommendations on the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) due on June 10. The Secretary wishes to brief White House senior staff on the path forward on Monday, June 12 on the contents of the report after submission.  
**Timing:** June 10  
**Contact:** Downey Magallanes, Senior Advisor and Counselor
3. **POTUS PARTICIPATION: ENERGY WEEK PROPOSAL:** Energy Week is the last week of June. We submitted a proposal for the President’s participation in an event in Whitefish, MT during the Western Governors’ Association annual meeting to highlight onshore energy production, which plays an integral role in domestic energy production and is a major economic driver for rural communities throughout the West. This event would be a great opportunity to showcase the President’s America-First Energy Policy and the impact it will have on western states and rural communities. If the President cannot attend, we are requesting that the Secretary attend as his representative.  
**Timing:** June 27  
**Contact:** Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff
4. **NEW FIVE-YEAR OFFSHORE ENERGY PROGRAM.** In response to President Trump’s Executive Order on Offshore Energy, Secretary Zinke will announce a request for information for a new five-year offshore program that considers opening new areas of the Outer Continental Shelf for offshore exploration. Since the Administration took office, Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting shows that the number of workers in oil and gas extraction has steadily risen as Administration policies and rebounding of energy prices has driven employment higher. This is

potentially a significant announcement that could highlight the President's vision for American Energy production.

**Timing:** Target Last Week of June 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

5. **USGS CRITICAL MINERALS:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and status of production, resources, and reserves. The Department will be developing a rollout event likely in July that will potentially be pitched for White House participation.

**Timing:** July 2017

**Contact:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

6. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION.** The Department is working to facilitate a path forward to maintain operation of the Navajo Generating Station, which provides baseload electricity for much of the Southwest and directly supports more than 800 local jobs. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation is a part owner of the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration have a role in the ultimate decision associated with the plant. Interior has hosted a series of public listening sessions and meetings on this issue. The current focus is extending the expiring lease between the main operator, Salt River Project, and the Navajo Nation which owns the land. After facilitation by Interior, an agreement in principle was reached on a two-year extension of the lease for the operating life of the power plant through 2019. It should be signed in July. Interior is helping to identify a possible future owner to keep the plant generating power indefinitely.

**Timing:** July 2017

**Contact:** Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

7. **CALIFORNIA WATER FIX RECORD OF DECISION.** The Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service are working with the State of California to achieve federal and state environmental compliance on the \$15 billion California Water Fix water infrastructure project. The project would construct tunnels to divert water from the Sacramento River to provide water supplies to California residents, businesses and farmers. The federal and state environmental reviews are expected to be successfully completed about June 9, and the Secretary of the Interior will be asked to sign off on the associated federal Record of Decision about June 23. There is no direct federal cost-share necessary for the project to proceed.

**Timing:** June 23 2017

**Contact:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

8. **\$1.1 BILLION IN PITTMAN-ROBERTSON SPORTSMAN GRANTS TO STATES FROM HUNTING AND FISHING FEES.** The Department will announce \$1.1 billion in funding derived from fees paid for hunting and fishing licenses and firearms, bows and

ammunition, tackle et al and distributed to states for state conservation and outdoor recreation projects. **The grants will be announced during an event on June 13 at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, New Hampshire.**

**Timing:** June 13 2017

**Contact:** Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

9. **HALLMARK CHANNEL FOURTH OF JULY SPECIAL.** The Hallmark Channel in conjunction with the National Park Foundation would like to produce a one-hour TV program that will air in primetime on July 4<sup>th</sup> to showcase federal lands across the nation - including parks that have an independence and freedom theme. Through the National Park Foundation, the Hallmark Channel is hoping that the President and/or Vice President would consider a pre-taped interview for the show – their participation would ensure the Hallmark Channel proceeds with the program. Timing is sensitive given logistics and Cabinet Communications has been alerted of this request.

**Timing:** ASAP

**Contact:** Laura Rigas, Communications Director

10. **GQ MAGAZINE PROFILE ON SECRETARY ZINKE:** GQ Magazine (reporter Elaina Plott) will profile Secretary Zinke in an upcoming issue. The profile will highlight Zinke's military experience, leadership style, strong relationship with the White House, and his bold and decisive action at the Interior Department. It will also highlight his western roots and tendency to be a hands on leader for the Department. Other cabinet, WH and DOI officials have been contacted to speak about the Secretary on and off the record.

**Timing:** Final interview with Secretary will be on horseback this weekend. Article publishing mid-Summer.

**Contact:** Heather Swift, Press Secretary

## **Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony**

1. **SECRETARY ZINKE TO TESTIFY ON THE HILL FOR BUDGET HEARINGS.** The Secretary is scheduled to testify on the FY18 Budget before the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees on June 8 and 21 respectively. He is scheduled to testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 20 and the House Natural Resources Committee on June 22.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

2. **DEPUTY SECRETARY NOMINEE BUSINESS MEETING MARKUP:** Deputy Secretary Nominee, David L. Bernhardt, was marked up out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 6. Final full Senate vote timing is to be determined, but outreach has occurred with Leader McConnell's office.

**Timing:** June 6, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

- 3. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE:** Glenda Owens (Acting Director) from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is scheduled to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources' Energy and Mineral Resource Subcommittee about Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grants facilitated to states.

**Timing:** 10 am, June 7, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

- 4. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE NATIONAL PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE:** Michael Reynolds, Acting Director of the National Park Service (NPS), has been invited to testify before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks to discuss improvements to the NPS workplace environment. The hearing is expected to focus on the sexual harassment IG reports from the last two years.

**Timing:** 2:30 pm, June 7, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

- 5. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS:** Bruce Loudermilk, Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources' Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee on a number of legislative proposals. Those bills include H.R.1074, To repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation"; H.R.1901, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2017; and S.249/H.R.1787 - To provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and for other purposes.

**Timing:** 2 pm, June 7, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

- 6. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE WATER, POWER, & OCEANS SUBCOMMITTEE:** James Hess, Chief of Staff from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), is scheduled to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources' Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee on a Discussion Draft bill on Reclamation title transfers.

**Timing:** 10 am, June 8, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

- 7. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE WATER & POWER SUBCOMMITTEE:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, will likely testify before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Water and Power Subcommittee on a number of legislative proposals, such as S. 440, to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota; S. 677, the Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act; S. 685, the Clean Water for Rural Communities; and S. 1012, the New Mexico Drought Preparedness Act. This hearing is rescheduled from its originally cancelled date on May 10, 2017.

**Timing:** 2:30 pm, June 14, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

## **Reports to Congress**

1. **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO RELEASE REPORT TO CONGRESS:** under the recently-enacted WIIN act (pl 114-322) BOR is required to submit to Congress a list of water recycling and reuse projects that the bureaus deems feasible and eligible for funding under the Act. The list is compiled and is in final stages of approval. Expected delivery is Thursday in order to comply.

## **Other/Awareness Only**

1. **SECRETARY ZINKE INVITED TO THE EVERGLADES BY BIPARTISAN FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:** Sen. Rubio led a letter to Sec. Zinke inviting him to tour the Everglades as soon as possible. No policy position touted within the letter, other than the importance of the Everglades to Florida. No date has been confirmed, but the Secretary has made it a priority. He would like to discuss the issue with Sen. Rubio over the phone in the immediate future before any trip is scheduled.

**Timing:** Early Fall, Sen. Rubio has proposed August 24

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

## **Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions**

1. **FWS REFUGE-SPECIFIC HUNTING AND SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS.** Fish and Wildlife Service will publish a proposed rule and open a 30-day comment period on the 2017-2018 Refuge Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. The proposal also includes modifications to existing hunting and fishing regulations for refuges and wetland management districts.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LAND.** Throughout June, the Bureau of Land Management will hold online oil and gas lease sales.

- **Colorado.** On June 8, BLM will hold a sale of 86 parcels totaling 73,288 acres in Jackson, Routt, Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties.
- **Oklahoma and Texas.** On June 8, BLM will hold a sale for 18 parcels totaling 4,376 acres in Roger Mills, Ellis, Canadian, and Major Counties, OK; and Live Oak, McMullen, Washington, Burleson, and Jackson Counties, TX.
- **Nevada.** On June 12, BLM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 106 parcels totaling 195,732 acres in Nye, Eureka, and Lander Counties.

- **Montana.** On June 13, BLM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 156 parcels totaling 69,056 acres in Custer, Garfield, Fallon, Carter, Rosebud, Big Horn, and Powder River Counties
- **Utah.** On June 13, BLM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 20 parcels covering 23,733 acres in Sevier, Piute, Garfield, and Sanpete Counties.
- **Arkansas.** On June 22, BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 2 parcels totaling 160 acres in AR.

**Timing:** June 8 -22

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

3. **IDAHO POWER LINE RECORD OF DECISION.** The Boardman to Hemingway power line project is a 500 KV electric transmission line, which will run from Oregon to Idaho to provide capacity for exchanging energy between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West. The ROD granting the right of way is expected to be finalized this month.

**Timing:** Late June- Early July 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

## **Legal Decisions**

1. **EVERGLADES WATER QUALITY CONSENT DECREE:** The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has informed the Department of Justice (DOJ) that it wishes to vacate the 25 year-old consent decree in this case, which governs water quality/pollution control efforts that affect Everglades National Park and A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. SFWMD has shared a draft motion to vacate, and DOJ is reviewing. DOI's technical experts, working with EPA and the Corps, have prepared an analysis of facts relevant to SFWMD's arguments, and we are currently reviewing a draft. DOJ will need to decide the USG position on the case: U.S. v. South Florida Water Management District (S.D. Fla.) - Everglades Water Quality Consent Decree. The federal agencies expect to brief decision-makers in the upcoming weeks. Note that Senators Rubio and Nelson sent a letter to Sec. Zinke inviting him to tour the Everglades. He will likely travel in the Fall.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Dan Jorjani, Acting Solicitor

## **Release of High-Profile Grants**

1. **\$15 MILLION TO SUPPORT RECREATIONAL BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE IN 40 STATES:** DOI plans to announce nearly \$15 million in grants to 40 states for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. More than \$9 million of this will go to six states (California, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas and Washington) for competitive grants, and the remaining \$5 million will go to 39 states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia for a smaller, non-competitive grant program. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. Grants, which are matched by funding from project partners, support construction or renovation of tie-ups, utilities, fuel stations, pump-out

and dump stations, restrooms and additional sanitary amenities such as laundry and showers for recreational boaters.

**Timing:** June-July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **\$1.75 MILLION FOR MARITIME HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$1.75 million in grants to be used for maritime heritage education and preservation projects related to the maritime heritage of the United States. The National Maritime Heritage Act established the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program within the Department of the Interior and provides funding for education and preservation projects designed to preserve historic maritime resources and is funded through a percentage of the proceeds from the sale or scrapping of obsolete vessels of the National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF). All grants awarded are matched on a 1-to-1 basis with non-Federal assets.

**Timing:** June –July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

3. **\$3.6 MILLION FOR BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$3,623,162 in available grant funding to acquire land to protect nearly 1,000 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland.

**Timing:** June-July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

4. **\$15 MILLION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$15 million in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant funding for approximately 25 projects. This competitive program supplements the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment to states by supporting projects for disadvantaged populations in urban areas.

**Timing:** June-July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, and Wildlife and Parks

5. **DOI TO MAKE \$464 MILLION IN PILT PAYMENTS TO 49 STATES.** In June, the Department will make \$464 million to over 1,900 local counties and units of government. Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes are used to help offset lost property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their jurisdiction (all 50 states except Rhode Island receive payments). PILT payments may be used for any government purposes, such as firefighting and police protection, public schools and roads and search and rescue operations.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

#### **Other/Awareness**

- 1. DOI POSTPONES ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS.** The Department is continuing to review the charter and charge of the more than 200 boards, committees, and advisory panels ensure they are structured to receive maximum public input and comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Department spends more than \$10 million to facilitate these boards and many are not meeting their charter obligations, are not meeting regularly, and have little turnover or numerous unfilled positions. Meetings have been postponed until September 2017 following the Department's review unless justified on a case-by-case basis.

**Timing:** May-September 2017

**Contact:** Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

## Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

### Major Policy Speeches

- June 8        **Secretary Zinke Testifies before House Appropriations Committee:** On President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- June 13      **Secretary Zinke to Deliver Remarks before the National Conference of American Indians (Connecticut)**
- June 20      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before the Senate Natural Resources Committee:** On President's FY2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- June 21      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before Senate Appropriations Committee:** On President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- June 22      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before the House Natural Resources Committee:** On President's FY2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)

### Events

- June 7        Secretary Zinke attends announcement with POTUS in Cincinnati and gives brief remarks.
- June 8        Secretary Zinke participates in White House Infrastructure Summit with Governors and Mayors.
- June 13      **Sportsmen's Event to Announce Grants:** Secertary Zinke will participate in an event at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, New Hampshire with Sportsmen to announce \$1.1 billion in Pittman-Robertson grants to support wildlife conservation across the country.

## **Travel by Secretary**

- June 13      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Connecticut for National Conference on American Indians Conference.**
- June 13      **Secretary Zinke Travel to New Hampshire for Sportsmen Event at Bass Pro Shops**
- June 14-  
June 15      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Maine to visit Katahdin Woods National Monument**
- June 15      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Boston to visit stakeholders regarding Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument**